



Welcome to our Horror Nerds at Church's Vampire Literature Syllabus. This syllabus was created by Pace Warfield-May and curated by them along with Page Stauffer and Rev. Emily E. Ewing, along with recommendations from our listeners, based on the books in our Vampire Literature Retrospective episode (Season 3, Episode 13, Published June 23, 2022)--find our episodes [here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts. If you have a vampire book, article, short story, podcast, or film recommendation that is not on this syllabus, please let us know by following the submission guidelines below. We will update the list periodically with your recommendations. We hope this will be a dynamic and growing syllabus! This syllabus is arranged into the following sections which follow the organization of our Vampire Literature Retrospective episode: Films Covered in Season 3, Development of Vampire Literature, 20th Century Vampire Literature and Beyond, the *Twilight* Series, Scholarly Works on Vampires, and Listener Suggestions. This will not be a complete list of vampire literature, such a task would be nearly impossible, but instead is meant to give our listeners an overview of the major works in the genre as well as some of our personal favorites. A few limitations: our season focused on the development of vampires in western media, as such, it does not feature nearly enough vampire literature from the global east and south; Pace, Emily, and Page are just three people and therefore the list focuses on our personal favorites and books we have had access to; the western publishing world has sadly been dominated by white, cis, male authors so our list reflects that; however, we have tried to include as much diversity as we can, especially in the 20th Century Vampire Literature and Beyond section. Given these limitations, we especially invite listeners to both suggest for and read the listener suggestions section than the three of us could manage on our own. Thank you so much for listening to our podcast and happy reading, horror nerds!

About Horror Nerds at Church

Horror Nerds at Church is a ridiculously queer podcast, where host Pace Warfield-May and friends take a deep dive into a horror film and talk about what the film can teach us about God, the Bible, and each other. Each season of the podcast follows Pace and a rotating group of co-hosts as they tackle a horror franchise plus a selection of one-off films—we have thus far covered the *Halloween*, *Friday the 13th*, and *Twilight* franchises, with many more seasons to come! We have had an array of special guests, including horror (and beyond) authors Eugene Johnson, Ben Monroe, Allyson Waldon, Lee Murray, and T.J. Tranchell, theologians and scholars Rev. Lenny Duncan, Olivia LaFlamme-Washington, Dr. Richard Lindsay, and Rev. Carla Christopher, and others, like the first openly lesbian bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Rev. Brenda Bos. Host Pace (they/them) is a PhD candidate in systematic and philosophical theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, with research interests in queer theology, Reformation studies, and pop culture. They presently live in Washington, DC. Co-hosts have included Rev. Emily E. Ewing, Rev. JM Longworth, River Cook Needham, MA ThM, Joseph Ramelo, Page Stauffer, Rev. Abel Arroyo Traverso, and Matt Warfield-May. Check out our linktree for links to our social media, podcast, merch store, newsletter, and more: <https://linktr.ee/HNACPod>.

Submission Guidelines

If you have a vampire book, article, short story, play, podcast, film, or other media recommendation that is not on this syllabus, let us know by following the following instructions. First, make sure to include the complete title, year of publication, and author (if relevant). Second, please include one or two sentences about why you think this work is important to vampire literature. We will post your recommendation along with your first name and last initial (please let us know if you would prefer a different credit) to this list in our “Listener Recommendation” section. Do so by emailing us at horrornerdsatchurch@gmail.com or commenting on our social media posts.

Films Covered in Season 3 of Horror Nerds at Church

We covered the following vampire films as part of [season 3](#) (in order of film release):

- *Dracula*. Directed by George Melford. Universal Pictures, 1931.
- *Daughters of Darkness*. Directed by Harry Kümel. Showking Films, 1971.
- *Interview with the Vampire*. Directed by Neil Jordan. Warner Brothers, 1994.
- *Blade*. Directed by David S. Goyer. New Line Cinema, 1998.
- *Twilight*. Directed by Catherine Hardwicke. Temple Hill Entertainment, 2008.
- *30 Days of Night*. Directed by David Slade. Sony Pictures, 2009.
- *The Twilight Saga: New Moon*. Directed by Chris Weitz. Temple Hill Entertainment, 2009.
- *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*. Directed by David Slade. Temple Hill Entertainment, 2010.
- *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*. Directed by Bill Condon. Temple Hill Entertainment, 2011.
- *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2*. Directed by Bill Condon. Temple Hill Entertainment, 2012.
- *Hotel Transylvania*. Directed by Genndy Tartakovsky. Sony Pictures, 2012.

We additionally covered the following films and tv series on [Patreon](#) and in past seasons (in order of film/show release):

- *Nosferatu*. Directed by F. W. Murnau. Prana Film, 1922. (Patreon Movie Commentary).
- *Horror of Dracula*. Directed by Terence Fisher. Hammer Film Productions, 1958. (Patreon Movie Commentary).
- *Vampire Hunter D*. Directed by Toyoo Ashida. Toho, 1985. (Patreon BooTube).
- *The Lost Boys*. Directed by Joel Schumacher. Warner Brothers, 1987. (Season 2).
- *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Directed by Fran Rubel Kuzui. 20th Century Fox, 1992. (Patreon Movie Commentary).
- *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. TV Series. The WB and UPN, 1997-2003. (Patreon BooTube).
- *Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust*. Directed by Yoshiaki Kawajiri. Nippon Herald Films, 2000. (Patreon BooTube).
- *Blade II*. Directed by Guillermo del Toro. New Line Cinema, 2002. (Patreon Movie Commentary).
- *What We Do in the Shadows*. Directed by Jemaine Clement and Taika Waititi. Madman Entertainment, 2014. (Patreon Movie Commentary).
- *Vampirina*. TV Series. Disney Junior and the Disney Channel, 2017-2021. (Patreon BooTube).
- *What We Do in the Shadows*. TV Series. FX, 2019-present. (Patreon BooTube).

The Development of Vampire Literature

In order of date written with the exception of the anthology.

Alan Ryan, editor. [*The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories*](#). New York: Penguin Random House, 1989.

This is an anthology that contains many of the authors mentioned below, including complete works of “The Vampyre” by John Polidori, Carmilla by Sheridan Le Fanu, and Lord Byron’s “Fragment of a Novel.” This is a great starting place to get a sip of vampire literature throughout the centuries.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge. [*Christabel*](#). Originally published 1816. The Poetry Foundation. Accessed June 2022.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s longform poem Christabel is one of the earliest examples of vampire literature in English. It features sapphic themes as the mysterious stranger Geraldine preys on the titular character. This work was very influential on Sheridan Le Fanu’s Carmilla and shows the vampire was always a queer figure from its origin in English literature.

George Gordon, Lord Byron. “Fragment of a Novel” (written in 1816) in [*The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories*](#). Edited Alan Ryan. New York: Penguin Random House, 1989.

Queer romantic poet and bad boy Lord Byron began this story as his entry into the challenge to create a ghost story while spending a rainy summer in Geneva with Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (future author of Frankenstein, itself an entry in this contest), Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Byron’s physician John Polidori. While this work remains incomplete, it was the foundation for Polidori’s “The Vampyre” (below) and another example of early vampire literature.

John Polidori. “The Vampyre” (originally published 1819) in [*The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories*](#). Edited Alan Ryan. New York: Penguin Random House, 1989.

Polidori, heavily inspired by “Fragment of a Novel,” wrote “The Vampyre” and published it anonymously. People initially assumed it was written by Byron until Polidori later took credit for it. Once again, the vampire here is a queer outsider, modeled after the handsome Lord Byron himself.

Sheridan Le Fanu. *Carmilla* (originally published 1872) in [Carmilla: The Cult Classic that Inspired Dracula](#). London: Pushkin Press, 2021.

Often called the first vampire novel in English (and at very least the first vampire novella in English), Le Fanu takes inspiration from “Carmilla” and expands upon it. This novella would be a major source of inspiration for Dracula and continues the sapphic queer coding of vampires.

Bram Stoker. [Dracula](#). Originally published 1897. San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2012.

Bram Stoker’s Dracula is easily the most recognizable of all vampire works, going on to inspire countless films, television series, books, and other media and becoming the blueprint for nearly every vampire story to come.

Bram Stoker and Valdimar Ásmundsson. [Powers of Darkness](#). Originally published 1901. Translated by Hans Corneel De Roos. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2017.

Bram Stoker gave Icelandic author Valdimar Ásmundsson the rights to create an Icelandic edition of Dracula. Rather than being a straightforward translation, Ásmundsson’s work, Makt Myrkranna (lit. Powers of Darkness) takes many liberties with the original novel, making it a bit longer, a bit sexier, with new characters, and a slightly altered plot. This work has fascinated scholars in recent years, wondering whether Ásmundsson worked from a different draft of Stoker’s Dracula or invented these changes on his own.

20th Century Vampire Literature and Beyond

In alphabetical order by author.

Butler, Octavia. [Fledgling](#). Grand Central Publishing, 2005.

Horror and science fiction juggernaut Octavia Butler tackles the vampire mythos in this novel, exploring racism, religion, ethics, politics, and more against a stellar story.

Carriger, Gail. *Finishing School Series*. Boston: Little Brown, 2013-2015.

- [Etiquette & Espionage](#). 2013.
- [Curtsies & Conspiracies](#). 2013.
- [Waistcoats & Weaponry](#). 2014.
- [Manners & Mutiny](#). 2015.

This steampunk YA quadrology is set in Victorian England and features werewolves, vampires, and other supernatural creatures.

Kikuchi, Hideyuki. *Vampire Hunter D*. Milwaukie, OR: Dark Horse Comics, 1983-Present.

- Vampire Hunter D* (originally published in 1983) in [Omnibus: Book One](#), 2021.
- Raiser of Gales* (originally published in 1984) in [Omnibus: Book One](#), 2021.
- Demon Deathchase* (originally published in 1985) in [Omnibus: Book One](#), 2021.

- Tale of the Dead Town* (originally published in 1986) in [Omnibus: Book Two](#), 2022.
- The Stuff of Dreams* (originally published in 1986) in [Omnibus: Book Two](#), 2022.
- Pilgrimage of the Sacred and the Profane* (originally published in 1988) in [Omnibus: Book Two](#), 2022.

Inspired by 1958's Horror of Dracula, Hideyuki Kikuchi's Vampire Hunter D is one of the longest running light novel (illustrated young adult novels) series in Japan. There are over thirty-five entries in the series. Not all have been translated into English. In 2021, Dark Horse started publishing the books in Omnibus Editions in English translation. To date, two omnibus volumes have been published containing the first six novels (listed above), with more to come.

King, Stephen. [Doctor Sleep](#). Originally published 2013. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016.

Doctor Sleep is a sequel to The Shining, following a now adult Danny Torrance as he faces off against energy vampires.

—. **'[Salem's Lot](#). Originally published 1975. New York: Anchor Books, 2011.**

King's second novel is his terrifying take on vampires and has been adapted for screen several times.

Hamilton, Laurell K. [Guilty Pleasures](#). New York: Ace Books, 1993.

The first entry in the ongoing Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter series, blending horror and romance.

Matheson, Richard. [I Am Legend](#). Originally published 1954. New York: Tor Books, 2007

This book helped create the zombie apocalypse genre of horror and science fiction, even though it's about vampires! The film starring Will Smith completely changed the ending, so we definitely recommend checking out the original.

Moore, Christopher. *Bloodsucking Friends (A Love Story) Trilogy*. New York: William Morrow, 1995-2010.

-[Bloodsucking Fiends: A Love Story](#). 1995.

-[You Suck: A Love Story](#). 2007.

-[Bite Me: A Love Story](#). 2010.

This trilogy is a humorous take on the romantic vampire by novelist Christopher Moore. The novels follow Jody and Tommy as they navigate life in San Francisco.

Niles, Steve. Illustrated by Ben Templesmith. *30 Days of Night* (originally published 2002) in [30 Days of Night Omnibus, Volume 1](#). San Diego: IDW Publishing, 2016.

The original three part comic is collected in this volume. The art is gorgeous and horrifying, the story minimalistic. There have been many continuations, prequels, spin-offs, and other tie-in media to the series, but none surpass the original.

Rice, Anne. *The Vampire Chronicles*. New York: Penguin Random House, 1976-2018.

-[Interview with the Vampire](#). 1976.

- [The Vampire Lestat](#). 1985.
- [The Queen of the Damned](#). 1988.
- [The Tale of the Body Thief](#). 1992.
- [Memnoch the Devil](#). 1995.
- [The Vampire Armand](#). 1998.
- [Merrick](#). 2000.
- [Blood and Gold](#). 2001.
- [Blackwood Farm](#). 2002.
- [Blood Canticle](#). 2003.
- [Prince Lestat](#). 2014.
- [Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis](#). 2016.
- [Blood Communion: A Tale of Prince Lestat](#). 2018.

New Tales of the Vampires:

- [Pandora](#). 1998.
- [Vittorio the Vampire](#). 1999.

This long-running series permanently changed the vampire from feared other to anti-hero and romantic figure. The first four novels are considered the best in the series and set up the themes that continue throughout.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Simon Snow Trilogy*. New York: Wednesday Books, 2017-2021.

- [Carry On](#). 2017.
- [Wayward Son](#). 2019.
- [Any Way the Wind Blows](#). 2021.

A YA trilogy's answer to the Harry Potter series; delightfully queer, featuring magic, vampires, and romance.

Snyder, Scott and Stephen King. [American Vampire](#). Illustrated by Rafael Albuquerque. New York: Vertigo, 2010-Present.

American Vampire is an ongoing comic book series, originally written by Stephen King and Scott Snyder and illustrated by Rafael Albuquerque. It provides an interesting and unique twist to the concept of place in relationship with vampires.

Books we did not read or cover in-depth on the episode, but were mentioned or referenced:

- [Blade comics](#), of which there are many.
- Brite, Poppy Z. [Lost Souls](#). New York: Dell, 1993.
- Buffyverse Novels. Page mentioned the Buffyverse novels, of which there are many. Check out this [Wikipedia link](#) for an ongoing list.
- Dutta, Tutu. [The Blood Prince of Langkasuka](#). New York: Penguin Random House, 2021.
- Kostova, Elizabeth. [The Historian](#). New York: Back Bay Books, 2009.
- Harkness, Deborah. [A Discovery of Witches](#) trilogy. New York: Penguin Random House, 2011.
- Harris, Charlaine. [The Southern Vampire Mysteries](#) (also known as *The True Blood Novels*). New York: Ace Books, 2001-2013.
- Hendrix, Grady. [The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires](#). Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2021.
- Hill, Joe. [NOS4A2](#). New York: William Morrow & Company, 2013.

- Lindqvist, John Ajvide. [*Let the Right One In*](#). Trans. Ebba Segerberg. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2008.
- Smith, L.J. [*The Vampire Diaries*](#). Series. New York: Harper Collins, 1991-2012.

The Twilight Series

There are four entries in the main Twilight series, and four additional companion books. The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner is set concurrently with Eclipse, Midnight Sun is a retelling of Twilight from Edward's perspective, Life and Death: Twilight Reimagined is a gender-swapped version of the original novel, and The Twilight Saga: The Official Illustrated Guide is an in-depth appendix of sort to the series, devling more deeply into the lore and world of Twilight.

Meyer, Stephenie. *The Twilight Saga*. Boston: Little Brown, 2005-2022.

- [*Twilight*](#). 2005.
- [*New Moon*](#). 2006.
- [*Eclipse*](#). 2007.
- [*Breaking Dawn*](#). 2008.
- [*The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner: A Twilight Novella*](#). 2010.
- [*The Twilight Saga: The Official Illustrated Guide*](#). 2011.
- [*Life and Death: Twilight Reimagined*](#). 2015.
- [*Midnight Sun*](#). 2022.

Scholarly Works on Vampires

While we did not mention any of these works in the Vampire Literature Retrospective, we nonetheless thought it would be helpful to include a list of scholarly resources and other studies on vampires. Alphabetical by author.

Auerbach, Nina. [*Our Vampires, Ourselves*](#). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997.

Clover, Carol J. [*Men, Women, and Chainsaws: Gender in the Modern Horror Film*](#). Updated Edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015.

Coker, Cait, editor. [*The Global Vampire: Essays on the Undead in Popular Culture Around the World*](#). Jefferson: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2021.

Frayling, Christopher. [*Vampyres: Genesis and Resurrection from Count Dracula to Vampirella*](#). New York: Thames & Hudson, 2016.

Frey, Holly and Tracy B. Wilson. "[Bela Lugosi: Part 1](#)" in *Stuff You Missed in History Class*. Podcast. iHeart Radio, October 2014.

Ibid., "[Bela Lugosi: Part 2](#)." October 2014.

Ibid., "[Bram Stoker](#)." October 2020.

Ibid., "[New England Vampire Panic](#)." September 2013.

Ibid., "[Sir Christopher Lee](#)." October 2014.

Groom, Nick. [The Vampire: A New History](#). New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020.

Hudson, Dale. [Vampires, Race, and Transitional Hollywoods](#). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017.

Ivey, Dorothy. [The Vampire Myth and Christianity](#). Master of Liberal Studies Thesis. Winter Park: Rollins College, May 2010.

Lavigne, Carlen. "[Sex, Blood and \(Un\)Death: The Queer Vampire and HIV](#)" in *Journal of Dracula Studies*. Vol. 6. Kutztown: Kutztown University, 2004.

McNally, David. [Monsters of the Market: Zombies, Vampires and Global Capitalism](#). Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2012.

Medland, Holly. "[Vampires](#)" in *History and Folklore Podcast*. Podcast. September 2021.

Orlomoski, Caitlyn. [From Monsters to Victims: Vampires and Their Cultural Evolution from the Nineteenth to the Twenty-First Century](#). Honors Scholar Thesis. Mansfield: University of Connecticut, 2011.

Seb. "[Some Vampires Are Real: Racial Stereotypes and Dominant Fears \(Re\)presented in the Black Vampire of American Popular Film](#)" in *Gnovis Journal*. Washington: Georgetown University, November 2011.

Stevenson, Jay. [The Complete Idiot's Guide to Vampires](#). Indianapolis: Alpha Books, 2002.

Vučković, Dijana and Ljiljana Pajović Dujović. "[The Evolution of the Vampire from Stoker's Dracula to Meyer's Twilight Saga](#)" in *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*. Volume 18, Issue 3. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2016.

Waller, Gregory A. [The Living and the Undead: Slaying Vampires. Exterminating Zombies](#). Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2010.

Wortman, James. "[Reality Bites: Vampires vs. HIV](#)" in *POZ*. Magazine. October 2007.

Listener Recommendations

Submit your own recommendations and we will include them here. We will update this list periodically.

-A few books you might enjoy: [They Thirst](#), by Robert McCammon, and [The Light at the End](#), by Skipp and Spector (often referred to as the first "splatterpunk" novel). Also, for a more scholarly bent, you might check out [The Vampire: His Kith and Kin](#) and other strange works by Montague Summers (who in my head-canon, is a distant ancestor of Buffy Summers). *From Ben M.*